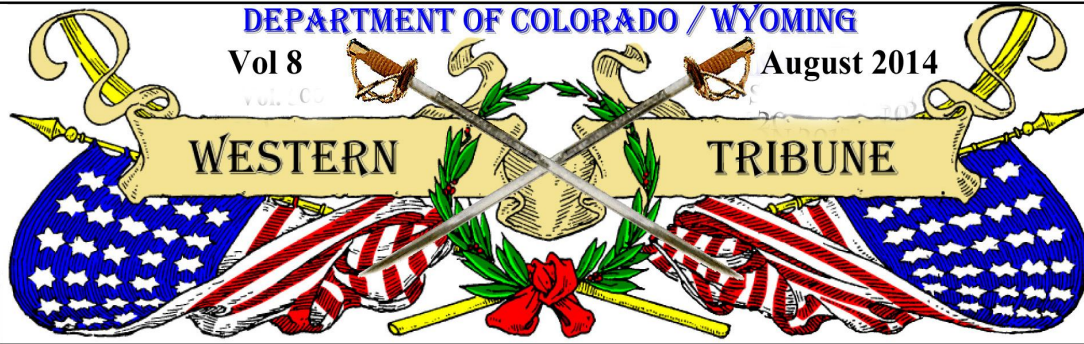


SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

DEPARTMENT OF COLORADO / WYOMING

Vol 8

August 2014



**Sons of Union
Veterans
of the Civil
War**

Department of CO/WY
PO Box 3035
Grand Junction, CO 81502-3035
(970) 241-5842

OFFICERS

Commander

James M. Barker, PCC,
5715 El Dora Dr.,
Colorado Springs, CO 80918
barker944@msn.com
719-593-2061

Senior Vice Commander

Senior Vice Commander:
Lorraine E. (Gene) Cheney, CC,
16305 Wright Rd.,
Monument, CO 80132;
waddie@aol.com;

Junior Vice Commander

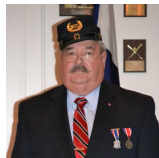
Robert LeMaster,
5249 Sunglow Cir.,
Kearns, UT 84118;
rangedad@comcast.net;
801-964-1967

Secretary / Treasurer

Eric D. Richhart, PDC,
3844 South Danbury Cir.,
Magna, UT 84044;
refoals1@msn.com;
801-250-7733

Newsletter Editor

Walter Weart
6813 Swadley Court
Arvada, CO 80004
303-9558167
wlg@nilenet.com



Commander's Report to the 86th Annual Encampment

Brothers, it is now incumbent upon me to render an account of the duties attached to the high and honorable office you conferred on me at the Encampment held in Salt Lake City one year ago. I deeply felt the honor and promised to discharge the duties of the office to the best of my ability. I have endeavored to do so and regret my inability to do more.

As your representative, I attended the National Encampment held 8-11 Aug in Milwaukee along with DSVC Gene Cheney and Newsletter Editor Br. Wally Weart. My report of the encampment was in the Summer issue of the newsletter so I won't repeat it here. On 2 Nov, I attended an event celebrating the Sesquicentennial of the Gettysburg Address at the Hiwan Homestead Museum in Evergreen, CO. PDC Geoff Hunt and other members of the 1st CO Volunteers provided a Civil War Camp and our friend John Voehl did a wonderful job as President Lincoln. On Veterans' Day 11 Nov, I travelled to Idaho Falls along with PDC Eric Richhart to rededicate a GAR Monument at the Rose Hill Cemetery. The monument had become engulfed in a juniper bush for decades. Thanks to Camp 1 for leading the effort to get the bush removed and the monument repaired. On 3 May, I represented the Department at the Daughters of the American Revolution Colorado State Regents Banquet honoring veterans. And on 10 May, I gave some brief remarks on Colorado in the Civil War to a meeting of the board of the Colorado Society of the Sons of the American Revolution.

At my election, I announced five goals for the Department to work toward in order to make our Camps the building blocks of the Order. First, to **Build Camp Membership**. I don't know how each Camp fared in implementing this goal but the Department's Annual Report submitted by the Secretary shows a net gain of one. Disappointing progress indeed but progress nevertheless. Each Brother must be a recruiter, new members bring new ideas and new enthusiasm. I encourage the Camps to redouble their efforts to bring in new Brothers.

Second, ***Improve Camp Programs*** and third, ***Improve Camp Visibility***. The purpose of these two goals is to reinforce the first. By improving camp programs we increase retention of our current members. By developing interesting programs at our meetings we increase our knowledge of and stimulate our interest in the Civil War, the GAR and our own Order and make our members want to come to meetings and participate. By increasing camp visibility we make ourselves known to the wider community. By letting the public know who we are and what we do stimulates interest and leads to new members. I cannot tell you what progress we've made in these areas as I have no reports from the camps. Perhaps we'll hear more about it when the Camp Commanders make their reports to you.

The fourth goal was to ***Improve Camp Leadership Training***. In most camps the same Brothers tend to rotate through the offices over and over again. It's only natural, they've gained the necessary experience and they certainly exhibit the desire. Perhaps, it is they who have the time necessary to perform the duties. But they get tired, they wear out. Not everyone is interested in it's taking on the responsibility, some will do it if they're asked, some are interested but are not sure they know enough to do the job. We must train our members to take leadership positions; even if

only writing down what you do, how you did it and tips you've learned along the way and giving it to your successor. Those who have led must mentor those coming up. Those taking over seek the advice and counsel of those who have gone before. Another excellent tool is the Officer's Training Course of the SUVCW Memorial University on the national website.

The last goal was to ***Improve Camp & Individual Recognition***. If we publicly recognize those who do a good job furthering the objects & purposes of our order, we not only let them know their efforts are appreciated, we encourage others to do just that little bit more that make our camps and our order successful. Early in this administration we revived the James E. Jewell Award

and established the A.V. Bohn Award as Department level awards and we'll present those later this afternoon. There are also unit and individual awards through the national organization. But recognition does not have to take the shape of an award. Acknowledging a job well done at a camp meeting is also effective.

Although not stated as a goal, we also need to work to ***Improve Communication***. Communication from the Commander to you, from you back to the Commander and within the Camp. Commanders must keep their commands informed of activities of the Camp, Department and National Organization. Likewise Brothers should keep their camp officers aware of what they may be doing individually. As Department Commander, I make three reports to National – two to the National Council of Administration, in the fall and the spring, and an annual summary to the National Encampment. It's hard to make these reports without information from the camps and department officers on their activities and concerns.

I am reminded of Frank O. Burdick. For years and years Dr. Burdick's Comrades in the GAR would elect him as the Department Medical Director. Year after year he would appear at the annual encampment to make his report; only one or at the most two sentences had anything to do with the health and welfare of his comrades. The rest of his report, paragraph upon paragraph, would be a litany of the frustration he felt, hoops he had to jump through, the time and money he had to expend importuning Post Surgeons and Post Commanders to report something – anything that he could use to make a useful report. Finally, at the end of his report, he would recommend that if his comrades thought so little of the value of his duties would they kindly oblige him by voting to eliminate his office altogether. Whereupon, the encampment would solidly vote his recommendation down and elect him to another term. Finally, in 1915, when the health concerns of the veterans were self-evident, they took pity on him and elected him Department Commander so he could leave the haranguing to his staff.

There have been times this year when I've felt great sympathy for Dr. Burdick. I know that it is almost tradition going back to the days of the GAR to ignore requests for information. I also understand that for most of us, officer positions are at best sometimes jobs and don't rate high as a priority in our daily lives. But occasionally it would be nice to hear from you if only to say "Everything going fine here. Thanks for asking".

A new communications tool that we've added at the Department level is an electronic meeting room. We have a large department, not in terms of numbers, but in area. If you don't count the Pacific Ocean between California and Hawaii, we're the largest department in the SUV. We are 5/11th the size of the old 4th Grand Division of late memory. With the Electronic Meeting Room the Department Council and elected officers can discuss urgent matters and make decisions without trying to find a time and place to meet physically. Another good tool is our Department Newsletter – the Western Tribune. Lately, we've been running a lot of historical pieces and stories on interesting GAR veterans. Mainly because we don't have a lot of camp news to report. We like camp news and we like pictures of camp activities. So take a few minutes and send them in. Camp Commanders or Secretaries should also send in the names and ancestors of new Brothers so we can introduce them to the Department.

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty;

James M. Barker
Department Commander



Department Commander Barker representing the Department at the Colorado DAR Regents banquet honoring veterans in Denver on May 3rd

MARSHALL HOPE AWARD

The WesternTribune Named Best Department Newsletter

The Department of Colorado & Wyoming was named the recipient of this year's Marshall Hope Award. This award is for the best department level newsletter. The award was presented at the National Encampment and was accepted on behalf of the Department by Brother Alan Russ. Kudos to our Editor, Brother Wally Wert and thanks to all who contributed to the success of our newsletter.

Department Encampment Pictures



(L-R): Br. Art Goguen (Camp 100); PDC Will Hinkley (Camp 100); CC Gene Cheney (Camp 100), DSV; PDC Jim Barker (Camp 100), DC; PCC Craig Ayler (Camp 100), DGRO; Br. Bryan Walls (Camp 1); PDC Eric Richhart (Camp 1), Dept Sec/Treas; PCC Gary Mitchell (Camp 100); PDC Charles Sharrock (Camp 12); Br. Wally Weart (Camp 100), Dept Newsletter Editor.



National Secretary Alan Russ installs Jim Barker for a second term as Department Commander.



PDC Eric Richhart, Camp 1 (right) won the James E. Jewel Award for the Outstanding Recruiter.



National Secretary Russ decorates the Department flag with streamers representing the three awards of The U.S. Grant III Cup won by the Department in the 1970's



CC Gene Cheney, Camp 100(right) accepts the A. V. Bohn Award for the Outstanding Camp.

Patriotic Instruction at Kids Camp

by Garry Brewer, PDC (Camp 7)

The Kids Camp is put on by the Museum of Western Colorado in Grand Junction, Colorado each year. As a representative of Legion of the West Camp 7 and the Sons of American Revolution, the Colorado Society of the War of 1812, and the Descendants of the Mexican War I made a presentation of the American Flags from the Revolution to present. The children learned why there are certain flags, about the holidays we have for our American Veterans and the history of those events. About 40 children attended.



PDC Garry Brewer (Camp 7) in Mexican War uniform with a volunteer Color Guard at Kids Camp.

We had caps for the children to wear from the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, Mexican War, Civil War, Indian Wars and World War One. They had fun learning about the different hats and why we have freedom because of the Revolution, the Star Spangler Banner from the War of 1812, the place we live in Colorado from the Mexican War of 1847, Memorial Day from the Civil War, and Veterans Day from World War One.

As a part of the presentation, we raised the star Spangled Banner over the camp. The children really enjoyed wearing the caps to the flag raising. In total 14 children wore hats, two of the young kids who wore the red artillery kepis, yelled three "boom's" in a very loud voice, after the raising of the flag because we didn't have any real cannons when the flag went up.

The Star Spangler Banner will fly above Kids Camp for the 5 weeks the camp will be in session.

Riverside GAR Project Progress Report



GAR section of Denver's Riverside Cemetery – in the beginning.



Br. Art Goguen, CC Gene Cheney and PCC Craig Ayler laying the framework for the walkway.



Halfway through block 1 of the walkway. The raised platform around the flagpole, completed last year was Phase I of the project.



Close up of the completed bricks.

Appomattox Inkstand

by Jim Barker, DC (Camp 100)

“One of the most prized relics of the Civil War in possession of the State of Colorado is the inkstand used at Appomattox Courthouse, VA on 9 April 1865, on the occasion of Lee’s surrender to Grant.” So states an article in the New York Times of 3 Mar 1902.

Colonel Cecil A. Deane, Curator of the War Relic Room in the State Capitol, acquired the inkstand in 1874. At that time Col. Cecil was a contract surveyor for the state when he met John L. Sheridan who was a clerk in the land office in Fairplay, CO. John was the brother of Gen. Philip H. Sheridan and told Col. Deane that his brother had brought the inkstand back from the McLean house after the war. It was said that it was the inkwell used to dip the pen that signed the articles of surrender.

In 1886, Col. Deane wrote to Gen. Sheridan to establish the identity of the inkstand beyond any doubt. Gen. Sheridan replied, “In answer to your letter of March 24, in regard to an inkstand now in your possession, I have to say that I took the inkstand used by Gens. Grant and Lee when the articles of surrender were signed at Appomattox from the McLean house and carried it with me to my own home in Ohio, where I left it. Whether the inkstand you refer to is the one taken by me from the McLean house I am unable to say.”



The inkstand is made of gutta percha (a rigid latex substance). It is two inches in diameter and one and a half inches high. On one side is a large bump or blister.

In 1887, it happened that Gen. Sheridan was in Denver to select the site for Ft. Logan. While in town, he met with Col. Deane and Gen. George Ady, Commander of the GAR Dept. of Colorado & Wyoming to view the artifacts in the War Relic Room. When he was shown the inkstand, he positively identified it as the one he had used as a cadet at West Point and in his subsequent military service up to the end of the Civil war. "That is the identical inkstand from which Grant and Lee got their ink on April 9, 1865," said Gen. Sheridan. "I can tell you how I know it is the one," he continued. Pointing to the blister he related that one evening in 1857 while stationed at Vancouver Barracks in Oregon, he was writing a letter and the inkstand was set too close to a tall candle. The heat from the candle caused the gutta percha to blister.

Col. Deane later commented that Gen. Sheridan took a great interest in the collection of war relics providing information on many of them. Gen. Sheridan told Col. Deane to consider the inkstand his contribution to the collection.

Ten years later, in 1897, Col. Deane donated his collection of relics including the inkstand to the State of Colorado. It is now part of the collection of History Colorado. The GAR continued to maintain the War Room in the State Capitol for many years, it serving as the Headquarters of the Department of Colorado & Wyoming.

Star Spangled Banner Flies over Mesa County on Flag Day

by Garry Brewer, PDC (Camp 7)

The fifteen star – fifteen stripe flag Colorado better known as the Star Spangled Banner was put up on the Mesa County Courthouse on June 13, 2014 in Honor of Flag Day on June 14th. The Fort McHenry Flag or the Star Spangled Banner will have its 200th Birthday this year on September 14, 2014.

Daughters of the War of 1812; the Sons of American Revolution and the Daughters of the American Revolution in gaining permission of the



Mesa County Commissioners to flag the historic flag. In addition to Flag Day the flag will be flown in front of the Courthouse on Independence Day, July 4; Star Spangled Banner Legion of the West Camp 7 was joined by local members of the Colorado Society, War of 1812; Bicentennial, September 14; Constitution Day, September 17th; Veterans Day, November 11th; and Bill of Rights Day, December 15th to honor our national anthem and the flag that flew over Ft. McHenry.



A proclamation from the Mesa County Commissioners will be issued during the week of September 14th in Honor of the Star Spangled Banner's bicentennial

G.A.R. Delegate Badges

by Jim Barker, DC (Camp 100)

The tradition of presenting badges to delegates to the National Encampment began in 1883 for the Denver Encampment. That badge was made from silver donated by a local citizen and the ribbon had the name of the delegate's department printed on it. The following year no badge was issued but delegates thought was that the 1883 badge was a good idea and that it would be a good tradition to establish. The second badge was issued to

the delegates in Portland in 1885. From then on, badges were issued to delegates until 1949. In the later years the word "delegate or representative" is not found on the badges, because they were also used by the Allied Orders. The last badge issued was in 1949. This was the last GAR National Encampment and only 6 GAR members were in attendance, but it is estimated that 1500-2000 badges were manufactured and widely distributed to everyone attending. The badges were made by the host city, with the approval of the National Commander. This is why the design of the badge reflects the prominent buildings, tunnels, founding fathers, and other items of local interest of the host city & state. The final pendant or medallion usually contained the image of the Commander-in-Chief. One of the exceptions is the 1909 badge, which has Lincoln's portrait honoring the 100th anniversary of his birth.

Early National Encampment badges were more unique than the badges following 1900. The badges are some of the most beautiful created in the era, and many have enameling and gold wash, one badge was made



GAR National Encampment Badges

from cannon for the Pittsburgh Encampment.

The accompanying photo is of the first complete set every assembled, taking 20 years of concentrated effort. A second complete collection is on display at the Women's Relief Corps Museum in Springfield, Illinois. One other complete collection is known to exist. For those wishing to start collecting National Encampment badges, be warned that the first three (1883, 1885, 1886) and the last badges from 1939 to 1948 are very difficult to locate. Prices for GAR encampment badges have risen sharply over the past several years. In addition to the delegate badges, there were a variety of "souvenir" badges for most of the national encampments. Beyond these badges, there are badges for Ex-Prisoners of War, WRC, Daughters of Civil War Veterans, Sons of Veterans, Press, Staff, and various committees. Many Departments issued badges for members of their delegations. The range of these supporting badges varies from encampment to encampment, because the local Citizens Committee and the Badge Committee developed the list of recipients and groups to be honored.

News of the Day – April 1891

by Jim Barker, DC (Camp 100)

How Lew Wallace Punished Marauders

"I remember a punishment," said Captain W. J. Kercheval, "that General Lew Wallace meted out to two soldiers who had shot a cow, in the face of orders not to shoot stock. It was in warm weather, and putting them under guard, they were given branches cut from trees and told to take turn about

every two hours keeping the flies off the carcass. They were kept at it nearly three days, most of the time being compelled to hold the nose with one hand while agitating the fly brush with the other. The sight was a very laughable affair to all but the sufferers, and the example had a good effect on other would be depredators.”

- *Indianapolis Journal, Apr 1891*

How to Aim a Revolver

Captain J. Forman, Thirteenth Infantry, says: “It’s a peculiar fact that very few men, even accomplished shots, know how a revolver ought to be handled. Nearly all are taught to aim a revolver as if it were a rifle; that is, by bringing the object aimed at and the fore and hind sights into line. This is all well enough for shooting gallery practice, but should never be followed in the field.

“In training troops to use the revolver, they are taught, in aiming, never look at the weapon at all, but to keep their eyes on the object to be struck. In quick firing, and especially in shooting from horseback, much better results are obtained in this way. A man throwing a stone does not look at his hand; neither does a billiard player sight along his cue.

“The same rules apply to the use of short weapons. I have seen men trained to shoot excellently at a mark when they could not see their pistol sights at all. Pieces of pasteboard were fastened just in front of the cylinders, which effectually prevented the men from using their foresights, and greatly increased the rapidity as well as the accuracy of their fire.

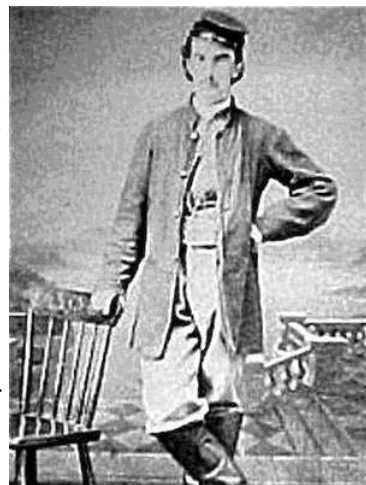
“Nearly anyone can sight a pistol correctly, the inaccuracy of the aim being due to trembling of the hands before the trigger is pressed.”

St. Louis Globe Democrat, Apr 1891

Joseph O. Gregg – Medal of Honor Recipient, GAR Comrade

by Jim Barker, DC (Camp 100)

Private Joseph O. Gregg was the first Montanan to be awarded the Medal of Honor. He served in Co. F, 133 Ohio Infantry and earned the medal in action near the Richmond & Petersburg Railroad on 16 Jun 1864. Citation: He voluntarily returned to the breastworks which his regiment had been forced to abandon to notify 3 missing companies that the regiment was falling back; finding the enemy already in the works, he refused a demand to surrender and returned to his command under a concentrated fire, several bullets passing through his hat and clothing. The medal was presented 13 May 1899, thirty-five years after the fact. Pvt Gregg was a member of Sheridan Post No. 18, Great Falls, MT.



Department Mourns the Loss of PDC Rhy Paris

PDC Philip Rhy Paris, passed away on Tuesday, August 12th, 2014. He was laid to rest with full military honors at the Veterans Memorial Cemetery of Western Colorado in Grand Junction, Colorado.



Rhy was born February 28, 1947, in Chillicothe MO to Barrington Lyle Paris and Lena Ruth (Anderson) Paris. He graduated from Chillicothe High School in 1965. He entered the United States Air Force in 1966 and served four years receiving an honorable discharge with the rank of sergeant. After his military service, he worked for Gibson's Discount Centers in Farmington, NM and Durango, CO from 1970 – 1975, rising to store manager. In 1975, he accepted a full time position as a Police Officer with the Durango Police Department. In 1979, the Paris family moved to Grand Junction, CO. Rhy worked in partnership in the sign business with his friend, Jim Cook, for about one year and in 1980, he went to work for the local cable TV company as an installer, technician and design draftsman. In 2002, he became the Assistant Director at the Veterans Memorial Cemetery of Western Colorado. He retired in 2010 due to health concerns.

He was active in many organizations including the Colorado Vietnam Veterans, Inc., the Sons of Confederate Veterans, and the Grand Valley Combined Honor Guard of which he was a founding member. He is a Life Member of the American Legion, Disabled American Veterans (DAV), Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA), Vietnam Security Police Association (VSPA) and the National Rifle Association (NRA).

Brother Paris was a Charter Member of Legion of the West Camp 7. He served as Camp Secretary/Treasurer, Camp Sr. Vice Commander and Camp Commander. In addition, he served as Dept. Sr. Vice Commander, Chaplain and Newsletter Editor. He was elected Department Commander 12 June 2010.



Department Officers 2014-2015

Department Commander:

James M. Barker, PDC
5715 El Dora Dr., Colorado Springs,
CO 80918;
barker944@msn.com;
719-593-2061

Senior Vice Commander:

Lorraine E. (Gene) Cheney, CC
16305 Wright Rd.,
Monument, CO 80132;
waddie@aol.com;
719-481-2866

Junior Vice Commander:

Robert LeMaster,
5249 Sunglow Cir.,
Kearns, UT 84118;
rangedad@comcast.net;
801-964-1967

Secretary-Treasurer:

Eric D. Richhart, PDC
3844 South Danbury Cir.,
Magna, UT 84044;
refoals1@msn.com;
801-250-7733

Department Council:

James J. Davenport, PDC
901 Garrison Dr.,
Cortez, CO 81321
Jimjanie_2@q.com;
970-565-9225

Gary E. Parrott, PDC
2960 Great Plains Dr.,
Grand Junction, CO 81503;
birdmanofmono@aol.com;
970-243-0476

Garry W. Brewer, PDC
2722 Rincon DR.,
Grand Junction, CO 81503;
Brewer62@bresnan.net;
970-241-5842

Patriotic Instructor:

Geoffrey R. Hunt, PDC
2502 West 32d St.,
Denver, CO 8021
Geoff.hunt@ccaurora.edu;
303-480-0227

Chaplain:

Willis S. Whittlesey III
4944 S. Regency St.,
Salt Lake City UT 84177
cowswhittlesey@msn.com
303-955-8167

Graves Registration Officer:

Craig A. Ayler, PCC
4200 Upham St.,
Wheat Ridge, CO 80033;
caayler@att.net ;
720-231-4327

Historian:

James M. Barker, PCC
5715 El Dora Dr.,
Colorado Springs, CO 80918;
barker944@msn.com ;
719-593-2061

Civil War Memorials Officer:

James M. Barker, PDC
5715 El Dora Dr., Colorado Springs,
CO 80918;
barker944@msn.com;
719-593-2061

Eagle Scout Coordinator:

Gerald F. Mosley, PDC
6570 South 2600
East, Salt Lake City, UT 84121;
candlespike@att.net;
801-943-0664

GAR Highway Officer:

Gary E. Parrott, PDC
2960 Great Plains Dr.,
Grand Junction, CO 81503;
birdmanofmono@aol.com;
970-243-0476

Department Organizer:

Eric D. Richhart, PDC,
3844 South Danbury Cir.,
Magna, UT 84044;
refoals1@msn.com;
801-250-7733

Newsletter Editor:

Walter Weart,
6813 Swadley Ct.,
Arvada, CO 80004;
wlg@nilenet.com; 303-955-8167

Webmaster:

Eric D. Richhart, PDC,
3844 South Danbury Cir.,
Magna, UT 84044;
refoals1@msn.com;
801-250-7733